

Song of the Nuns of Chester [arr.] (2006)

SSA w/ piano

Difficulty rating: 2

Duration: 2'30"

Adapted from *Fantasy on Medieval Carols*

Premiere: Children's Aid Society Chorus, conducted by Peter Frost, NYC, 01/18/07

This arrangement is adapted from my *Fantasy on Medieval Carols*, a through-composed 15-minute work, written for the 30th anniversary of The Greenwich Village Singers. The piece is built around free arrangements of seven Latin carols, scored for mixed chorus, children's chorus (SA), and piano. As with the other movements in the larger work, the original melody is altered, tossed between voices, and presented in a more modern harmonic idiom, but it remains in essence a lullaby. The carol's soothing refrain, also used as an accompaniment ("Lully, lully, lu"), forms the basis for the newly written coda of the SSA version.

Qui creavit coelum, Lully, lully, lu!
Nascitur in stabulo, By, by, by, by, by,
Rex qui regit seculum, Lully, lully, lu!

*He who made the earth so fair, lully, lully lu,
Slumbers in a stable bare, by by, by by, by,
Warm'd by cattle standing there, lully, lully lu!*

Lactat mater Domini, By, by, by, by, by,
Osculatur parvulum, Lully, lully, lu!
Et adorat Dominum, By, by, by, by, by,

*Jesus sleeps in Mary's arm, lully, lully lu,
Sheltered there from rude alarm, by, by by, by,
None can do Him ill or harm, lully, lully lu!*

Roga mater filium, Lully, lully, lu!
Ut det nobis gaudium, By, by, by, by, by,
In pereni gloria, Lully, lully, lu!
--13th or --14th c. English carol

*See his Mother o'er Him bend, lully, lully lu,
Hers the joy to soothe and tend, by, by by, by,
Hers the bliss that knows no end, lully, lully lu!*
--(Trans. Irene Gass)